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**STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE**  
8 **INSURANCE COMPANY**

9  
10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
11 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

12 BRANDON RUESCH,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE  
16 INSURANCE COMPANY, a corporation; DOES  
17 I through X, inclusive, and ROE  
CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

18 Defendants.

Case No: 2:15-cv-00532-JCM-GWF

**STIPULATION AND ORDER  
REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY  
AGREEMENT**

19  
20 PLAINTIFF, BRANDON RUESCH, by and through his counsel of record, Robert D.  
21 Vannah, Esq., of GOLIGHTLY & VANNAH, and DEFENDANT, STATE FARM MUTUAL  
22 AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY (hereinafter "STATE FARM INSURANCE"), by and  
23 through its counsel of record, Ryan L. Dennett, Esq. of the law firm of DENNETT WINSPEAR,  
24 LLP, hereby enter into the following STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING  
25 CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT:

26 WHEREAS PLAINTIFF has filed the above-identified suit against DEFENDANT, STATE  
27 FARM INSURANCE;

28 ///

1 WHEREAS STATE FARM INSURANCE was served with Plaintiff's request for production  
2 of documents at the LR-26 Meet and Confer Meeting and anticipates that STATE FARM  
3 INSURANCE may be served with additional requests for documents in connection with the  
4 instant suit;

5 WHEREAS STATE FARM INSURANCE has asserted a privilege and will continue to  
6 assert a privilege, that the materials to be disclosed and sought by PLAINTIFF are of a  
7 confidential or proprietary nature and constitute a trade secret under applicable law, and will  
8 assert such a privilege from disclosure of documents and discovery as to any current and future  
9 requests for production of documents;

10 WHEREAS PLAINTIFF and DEFENDANT STATE FARM INSURANCE desire to  
11 expedite and facilitate the discovery process in this litigation while protecting the business  
12 interests of STATE FARM INSURANCE to its trade secrets; and

13 WHEREAS PLAINTIFF and DEFENDANT STATE FARM INSURANCE agree that the  
14 easiest and most economical way to accomplish this goal is through the execution of this  
15 STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

16 IT IS THEREFORE AGREED as follows:

17 1. Documents that will be produced by STATE FARM INSURANCE and designated  
18 as "Confidential" as provided pursuant to this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING  
19 CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT are claimed by STATE FARM INSURANCE to be of a  
20 confidential or proprietary nature by STATE FARM INSURANCE at or about the time of the  
21 incident or transactions at issue in this litigation or at some time later. The purpose of this  
22 STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT is to protect the  
23 confidentiality of these documents.

24 2. Documents and information produced in this case by STATE FARM INSURANCE  
25 shall be protected from inappropriate disclosure in accordance with the following terms and  
26 conditions:

27 a. STATE FARM INSURANCE may, in good faith, designate documents or  
28 discovery information "confidential" including, but not limited to:

i. All documents and/or information that Defendant believes to constitute or disclose trade secrets or other confidential research, development, testing, or commercial information or other information that it is entitled to keep in confidence;

ii. Business marketing, testing, training materials, research or strategic plans relating to any materials, products, goods and/or services;

iii. Discovery material reflecting or relating to research, testing or financial data; and/or

iv. All documents and/or information containing or referring to internal evaluations and/or criticisms of any of STATE FARM INSURANCE products, goods, services, practices and/or procedures, as well as any claims handling materials for claims brought against STATE FARM INSURANCE.

b. All documents produced by STATE FARM INSURANCE in this case and designated "confidential" shall be used solely for the purpose of "this action" and shall not be made available to persons other than "qualified persons" as defined in Paragraph 3. "This action" specifically refers to the pretrial proceedings and trial or settlement of the above-referenced cause of action, and no other.

3. "Qualified persons" means:

a. A party to this action, an officer, director, employee or partner or a party of in-house counsel having direct responsibility for, working directly on, or testifying in connection with this action who has executed a Declaration in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A the executed Exhibit A shall be delivered to counsel for STATE FARM INSURANCE; and/or

b. Counsel of record for the parties and the legal assistants and regularly employed office staff of the counsel of record for the parties; and/or

c. A person retained by a party or its attorneys of record to assist in this action, such as independent accountants, expert witnesses, statisticians, economists, consultants or other technical experts and/or consultants, who have signed a Declaration in the form of Exhibit A hereto. Delivery of the executed Exhibit A must be provided to counsel for STATE FARM INSURANCE at the time an expert report is provided, expert disclosures are due or at the

1 conclusion of this case, whichever comes first; and/or

2 d. Court officials involved in this action, including the Court and its staff, court  
3 reporters, persons operating video recording equipment at depositions, and any Special Master  
4 appointed by the Court; and/or

5 e. Actual or potential deposition witnesses in this action who are assisting counsel in  
6 the prosecution or defense of this action or whom counsel must advise concerning the status of  
7 this action who have executed a Declaration in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

8 4. Unless prior written consent for further disclosure has been obtained from counsel  
9 for STATE FARM INSURANCE or permission for such disclosure has been given by the Court,  
10 each qualified person identified in Paragraphs 3(a), (c), and (e) above, as well as counsel for  
11 third-party witnesses, to whom delivery, exhibition or disclosure of any materials designed as  
12 confidential is made, shall be provided with a copy of this STIPULATION AND ORDER  
13 REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

14 5. "Confidential" documents and other discovery materials shall include all originals  
15 and copies of any document and/or information that STATE FARM INSURANCE has designated  
16 as such by stamping the cover or other page or by stamping a blank sheet affixed to the cover or  
17 other page with the word "CONFIDENTIAL" or in any other reasonable manner appropriate to  
18 the form in which the confidential information is made available to the qualified persons as  
19 defined in Paragraph 3. In lieu of stamping the originals of documents, STATE FARM  
20 INSURANCE may stamp copies that are produced or exchanged, or indicate in some  
21 appropriate fashion that the documents are confidential under this STIPULATION AND ORDER  
22 REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT. Notwithstanding the foregoing, documents or  
23 other discovery materials produced and not so designated through mistake, an inadvertence, or  
24 for any other reason shall likewise be deemed confidential if later designated.

25 6. In the event that a "qualified person" ceases to engage in the preparation for trial  
26 or trial of this proceeding, access by such person to confidential documents and other discovery  
27 materials of STATE FARM INSURANCE shall be terminated. However, the provisions of this  
28 STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT shall remain in

1 full force and effect as to all persons who have obtained access to such documents or other  
2 discovery materials of STATE FARM INSURANCE designated for protection hereunder in  
3 perpetuity.

4 7. Counsel for the parties shall maintain a list of the names of all persons, including  
5 all experts, expected to testify at trial, who inspect or view confidential documents and other  
6 discovery information or who receive any copies of such confidential documents or discovery  
7 information and shall make such a list available to STATE FARM INSURANCE at the conclusion  
8 of this litigation.

9 8. This STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY  
10 AGREEMENT initially protects from disclosure all documents that the producing party designates  
11 in good faith as "confidential". Upon delivery of any document or other information so  
12 designated, another party may, within 20 days of delivery of the document or other information,  
13 send a letter to the producing party challenging any such designations by indicating by bates  
14 number ranges or other sufficient identifying information precisely which documents the  
15 challenging party asserts are not in fact "confidential". The parties shall confer in good faith in an  
16 attempt to informally resolve the dispute. If such attempt is unsuccessful, the party disputing the  
17 "confidential" designation of the document(s), shall file a motion for a protective order regarding  
18 any designations in question, enclosing, where appropriate, the documents challenged for in  
19 camera review. The opposing party shall oppose the Motion per FRCP. Movant shall apply, if  
20 necessary, and submit the motion. Upon stipulation approved by the court, the parties may  
21 expedite briefing. The documents challenged hereunder retain their status as "confidential  
22 information" hereunder unless or until the court order that they be released from such status.

23 9. Documents initially designated as "confidential" by either party are solely to be  
24 used within the confines of this litigation.

25 10. Nothing contained herein shall prevent disclosure beyond the terms of this  
26 STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT if STATE FARM  
27 INSURANCE consents in writing to such disclosure; or if the Court, after notice to all affected  
28 persons, allows such disclosure; or if the party to whom confidential information has been

1 produced thereafter becomes obligated to disclose the information in response to a lawful  
2 subpoena, PROVIDED THAT the subpoenaed party gives prompt written notice to counsel for  
3 STATE FARM INSURANCE and permits STATE FARM INSURANCE's counsel sufficient time to  
4 intervene and seek appropriate relief in the action in which the subpoena was issued.

5 11. Nothing in this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY  
6 AGREEMENT, nor any action taken in compliance with it, shall:

7 a. Operate as an admission by STATE FARM INSURANCE that any particular  
8 document, or discovery material, deposition transcript, or discovery response is or is not  
9 confidential; or

10 b. Prejudice in any way the right of any party to seek a determination by the Court  
11 whether particular documents or other information should or should not be disclosed or if  
12 disclosed whether it should remain subject to the terms of this STIPULATION AND ORDER  
13 REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

14 Any party may request the Court to modify or otherwise grant relief from any provision of  
15 this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

16 12. Nothing in this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY  
17 AGREEMENT shall be deemed to impair STATE FARM INSURANCE's right to object to the  
18 production of documents or information on any ground, or to assert that the documents or  
19 information sought are privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure or to demand more  
20 stringent restrictions for the treatment or disclosure of any documents or discovery information  
21 on any ground that may be warranted by the circumstances of a particular document request.

22 13. Nothing in this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY  
23 AGREEMENT shall bar or otherwise restrict any attorney herein from rendering advice to his or  
24 her client with respect to this case.

25 14. The parties and their attorneys, and any "qualified persons" who receive  
26 confidential information subject to this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING  
27 CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT, who intentionally, knowingly, or otherwise violate the terms  
28 of this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT shall be



1 jointly and severally liable to STATE FARM INSURANCE for all damages arising therefrom and  
 2 STATE FARM INSURANCE may pursue any and all civil remedies available to it for breach of  
 3 the terms of this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

4 15. This STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY  
 5 AGREEMENT may be modified by executing a revised stipulation and order among all parties,  
 6 approved by the Court or by application by noticed motion.

7 16. Nothing in this STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY  
 8 AGREEMENT shall be construed as a waiver of any rights by any party with respect to matters  
 9 not specifically provided for herein.

10 17. Unless otherwise permitted by statute, rule or prior court order, papers filed with  
 11 the court under seal shall be accompanied by a contemporaneous motion for leave to file those  
 12 documents under seal, and shall be filed consistent with the court's electronic filing procedures in  
 13 accordance with Local Rule 10-5(b). Notwithstanding any agreement among the parties, the  
 14 party seeking to file a paper under seal bears the burden of overcoming the presumption in favor  
 15 of public access to papers filed in court. *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.2d  
 16 1172 (9th Cir. 2006).

17 DATED this 5 day of May April, 2015.

18 **GOLIGHTLY & VANNAH**

19 By   
 20 Robert D. Vannah, Esq.  
 21 Nevada Bar No. 002503  
 22 John B. Greene, Esq.  
 23 Nevada Bar No. 004279  
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 28 **Attorneys for Plaintiff,**  
**Brandon Ruesch** Attorneys for Plaintiff  
**BRANDON RUESCH**

DATED this 11 day of May April, 2015.

**DENNETT WINSPEAR, LLP**

By   
 RYAN L. DENNETT, ESQ.  
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**Attorneys for Defendants**  
**STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE**  
**INSURANCE COMPANY**

ORDER

Good cause appearing therefore, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 13th day of May, 2015.

  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Submitted by:

**DENNETT WINSPEAR, LLP**

By   
RYAN L. DENNETT, ESQ.  
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89129  
**Attorneys for Defendants**  
**STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE**  
**INSURANCE COMPANY**

**DENNETT WINSPEAR**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



## EXHIBIT A

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO  
ABIDE BY STIPULATION AND ORDER  
REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT**

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY UNDERSTANDS AND ACKNOWLEDGES that he or she has read the Stipulation and Order Regarding Confidentiality Agreement filed in this action on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015. The Undersigned hereby acknowledges that a Stipulation and Order Regarding Confidentiality Agreement in the case of *BRANDON RUESCH v State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, et al.*, was filed in the United States District Court Southern District for the District of Nevada and entitled "STIPULATION AND ORDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT."

The Undersigned agrees to be bound by the terms of the above-mentioned Stipulation and Order Regarding Confidentiality Agreement in the same manner as the parties to the Stipulation and Order and their respective attorneys. The Undersigned agrees to provide Ryan L. Dennett, Esq., attorney for Defendant STATE FARM INSURANCE, with written notice of any document sharing as well as a list of any recipients of shared documents. The Undersigned also agrees, as provided in the Stipulation and Order Regarding Confidentiality Agreement, to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court Southern District for the District of Nevada for any proceedings related to any violation or threatened violation of this Order.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Litigant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Litigant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Litigant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney